

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing a distributed software application, comprising:  
5 a server comprising a stored electronic main page, wherein the main page comprises at least two browser components for displaying additional electronic pages within the main page;

a client computer comprising a browser program configured to establish a communication link with the server and display the stored electronic main page; and

10 at least one software control on the main page for selecting one of the at least two browser components to display in the browser program.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the main page is written in the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

15 3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the browser components comprise the Microsoft HTML parsing and rendering engine.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the browser program is the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser program.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the software control is an Active X control.

6. The system of Claim 5, wherein the Active X control is a command button control.

20 7. The system of Claim 5, wherein the Active X control appears as a tab within the browser program.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the software control is configured to store variable data to the client computer.

25 9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the at least two browser components are part of a single software control.

10. A method of processing information using a computer network, comprising:

30 downloading an electronic main page from a server computer to a client computer, wherein the main page comprises at least two browser components for displaying additional electronic pages within the main page;

providing at least one software control on the electronic main page; and  
displaying the stored electronic main page, wherein a first one of the  
browser components displays a first electronic page, and wherein activation of  
the software control results in as second one of the browser components  
5 displaying a second electronic page.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the main page is written in the  
Hypertext Markup Language (HTML).

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the browser components comprise the  
Microsoft HTML parsing and rendering engine.

10 13. The method of Claim 10, wherein the browser program is the Microsoft  
Internet Explorer browser program.

14. The method of Claim 10, wherein the software control is an Active X  
control.

15 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the Active X control is a command  
button control.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein the Active X control appears as a tab  
within the browser program.

17. The method of Claim 10, wherein the software control stores variable  
data to the client computer.

20 18. The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least two browser components are  
part of a single software control.